



October 16, 2012

Dear Chairperson Casperson,

We feel the stated basis for House Bill 5834 lacks integrity and understanding of the niche the Gray Wolf occupies in the 1836 Ceded Territory. While we agree that "sound scientific management of Gray Wolf populations is necessary"<sup>1</sup>, we assert that public hunting is not a legitimate scientific management tool to achieve the objective of prevention of "Gray Wolves from threatening or harming humans, livestock, and pets."<sup>1</sup> This is acknowledged by the Michigan Department of Natural Resources in the 2008 Michigan Wolf Management Plan<sup>2</sup>.

Broad based population control measures, in general, are an ineffective method to deal with wildlife that are habituated to human environs. The harvest random wolves across the landscape does not change the learned behaviors by individual wolves or packs that are causing depredation events and/or increasing their presence in residential areas. These management issues must be dealt with on a case by case basis and will often require a variety of management tools to be employed such as, landowner education, land management changes, and non-lethal or individually directed lethal methods. The implementation of recreational hunting as a broad-based population control measure will have a negative impact on a rebounding wolf population that plays an import ecological role in the Upper Peninsula ecosystem.

Through Public Act 290 and 318, we feel the Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Michigan Citizens currently have the necessary tools to keep wolves from harming livestock and pets. Under these two pieces of legislation, the Michigan DNR and landowners and/or their agent are authorized to use lethal methods to destroy a wolf that is attacking livestock or pets. Also, depredation permits can currently be issued by the Michigan DNR in areas where on-going depredation issues are identified. This will allow landowners with on-going issues to be proactive in protecting their livestock and pets.

This bill also seeks to use public hunting as a tool to minimize human and gray wolf encounters. We oppose this objective. Mii'angin (wolf) is sacred to our Tribe and to our members encounters with gray wolves are not inherently negative. We are deeply concerned with legislation that seeks to minimize Gray Wolf encounters. We implore the State to seek legitimate methods to

<sup>1</sup> House Bill No. 5834, August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012, Introduced by Rep. Huuki and referred to the Committee on Natural Resources, Tourism, and Outdoor Recreation

<sup>2</sup> Michigan Wolf Management Plan, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, Wildlife Division Report NO. 3484, July 10, 2008

Aaron A. Payment, MPA

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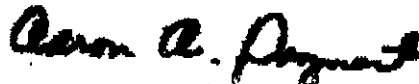
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'Aaron Payment'

deal with habituated wolves that will not infringe on our right to sacred encounters with Mii'angin.

Sault Tribe is also, concerned with the pace at which, the State has moved to recreational hunting. The Endangered Species Act delisting process calls for a 5 year monitoring period. The State has a legal obligation to adequately carry-out these monitoring functions. We urge the State to appropriate sufficient funds to the Michigan Department of Natural Resources to reinstitute annual gray wolf population surveys in the Upper Peninsula as part of a scientific wolf management program and to ensure adequate field staff to manage individual packs and wolves that pose a threat to livestock, pets and humans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron A. Payment". The signature is stylized with a large, bold "A" and a long, sweeping underline.

Aaron A. Payment, Chairperson  
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians



RESOLUTION NO: 2012-183

**OPPOSITION TO MI H.B. 5834 AND THE RECREATIONAL HUNTING OF WOLVES IN MICHIGAN**

WHEREAS, in the *Anishinabe biimaadziwiin* (our Indian way), the wolf (*Ma'iiangan*) is the *Anishinabek's* oldest and original companion; and

WHEREAS, *Ma'iiangan* is one of our sacred clan creatures and is not hunted because it is a descendent of *Pucky Wuss* (*Nana bush's* companion provided by *Gitchi Manitou*); and

WHEREAS, *Ma'iiangan* has only marginally reestablished populations again where they were once extirpated within 1836 Ceded Territory; and

WHEREAS, management actions of the State of Michigan can significantly impact our nation's ability to interact with and manage for *Ma'iiangan*; and

WHEREAS, we do not believe broad-based population control measures in the form a wolf hunting season are warranted or will be effective at achieving management outcome sought in H.B. 5834; and


WHEREAS, effective tools currently do exist for citizens and resources managers and are authorized in State of Michigan Public Acts 290 and 318;

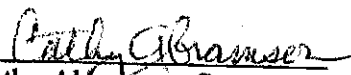
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians is unequivocally opposed to House Bill 5834 which would designate wolves as a game species under State of Michigan law and allow for a wolf hunting season.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians is unequivocally opposed to hunting of wolves within the 1836 Ceded Territory.

**CERTIFICATION**

We, the undersigned, as Chairperson and Secretary of the Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of Chippewa Indians, hereby certify that the Board of Directors is composed of 13 members, of whom 12 members constituting a quorum were present at a meeting thereof duly called, noticed, convened, and held on the 4 day of September 2012; that the foregoing resolution was duly adopted at said meeting by an affirmative vote of 11 members for, 0 members against, 0 members abstaining, and that said resolution has not been rescinded or amended in any way.

  
Aaron A. Payment, Chairperson  
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of  
Chippewa Indians

  
Cathy Abramson, Secretary  
Sault Ste. Marie Tribe of  
Chippewa Indians

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# ***United Tribes of Michigan***

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*Frank Ettawageshik, Executive Director*

## **RESOLUTION # 023 10-10-2012**

### **United Tribes of Michigan opposition to Sport/Recreational hunting of Wolves in Michigan**

**WHEREAS**, the membership of United Tribes of Michigan (UTM) is open to all of the twelve federally recognized tribes located in Michigan; and

**WHEREAS**, the organization provides a forum for the Tribes in Michigan to address issues of common concern and is committed to join forces to advance, protect, preserve and enhance the mutual interests, treaty rights, sovereignty, and cultural way of life of the sovereign Indian Tribes of Michigan throughout the next seven generations; and

**WHEREAS**, UTM accepts the mission to engage, as a matter of mutual concern, issues that impact the health, security, safety, and general welfare of Native Americans; and

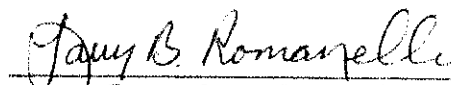
**WHEREAS**, the gray wolf is a species which has significant importance to the culture and way of life of all tribes in the State of Michigan, and has only recently been reestablished in the State after suffering near-extinction through the management decisions of the State and its agencies, and

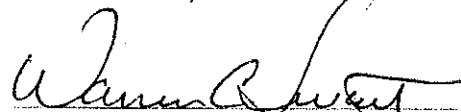
**WHEREAS**, the gray wolf is not an appropriate species for harvest for subsistence purposes, and its number cannot withstand depletion by recreational hunting, and

**WHEREAS**, Michigan law already contains adequate means by which depredation by a gray wolf to livestock and other animals can be remediated and problem wolves controlled.

**THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, the United Tribes of Michigan hereby opposes HB 5834 and any change in the laws of the State of Michigan by which wolves are designated as a game species and a wolf hunting season is allowed.

*Adopted by a vote of 7 in favor, 0 against, 0 abstaining, at a meeting of the United Tribes of Michigan held on October 10, 2012.*

  
Ogema Larry Romanelli  
UTM President

  
President Warren Chris Swartz  
UTM Secretary